

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

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R 072017Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7452

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

UNCLAS BOGOTA 2214

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJ: REACTIONS TO SECRETARY'S HOUSTON ADDRESS

1. POTENTIAL AND MEDIA REACTIONS TO THE SECRETARY'S MARCH 1 HOUSTON ADDRESS ON LATIN AMERICA HAVE BEEN LIGHT. MARCH 5 ISSUES OF THE LEADING BOGOTA DAILIES EL TIEMPO AND EL ESPECTADOR, FOLLOWING DELIVERY OF TEXT BY USIS OFFICERS, CARRIED THOUGHTFUL LEAD EDITORIALS.

2. EL TIEMPO'S EDITORIAL, TITLED " A POLICY FOR LATIN AMERICA", REVIEWED KEY POINTS OF THE ADDRESS AND SINGLED OUT FOR EMPHASIS THE "EVIDENT PURPOSE OF MODIFYING THE POSTURE OF INDIFFERENCE WHICH HAD COME TO BE ADOPTED BY WASHINGTON, BY A GREATER CARE FOR WHAT SHOULD BE THE SOLIDARITY OF THESE PEOPLES, WHOSE INTER-DEPENDENCE IS OBVIOUS. IN THIS SENSE MR. KISSINGER'S WORDS PROMISE A DIFFERENT AND MORE USEFUL ATTITUDE FOR THE CREATION OF DIFFERENT TIES AND OF ACTS WHICH CONFIRM IN REALITY THE VITALITY OF A DEFINED POSITIONS WITH REGARDS TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE

AMERICAS". CONTINUING THE SAME THOUGHT IN A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSION OF THE U. S. TRADE ACT, EL TIEMPO STATES, "... THE EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY FOR THE BILLS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS TO EXCLUDE VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR FROM THE DISCRIMINATION ESTABLISHED BY

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THE

COMMERCIAL STATUTE INDICATES TO WHAT POINT THE CONCILIATORY SPIRIT
MOTIVATES HIM".

3. AFTER OBSERVING THAT THE SECRETARY'S "DESING WILL HAVE TO BE
CONFIRMED IN HIS COMING TRIP THROUGH...THE CONTINENT" AND EXPLAINING
THAT HIS CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER UNSTABLE

AREAS ACCOUNTS FOR HIS "FORGETFULNESS OF THESE COUNTRIES", THE
EDITORIAL
CLOSES WITH THE HOPE OF "THE POSSIBILITY OF BETTER TREATMENT AND
A NEW ORIENTATION. IF THAT IS THE CASE ONE MUST CHEER THE WORDS OF
(THE SECRETARY) WHICH THUS COME TO REESTABLISH, AT LEAST RELATIVELY
THE CONFIDENCE THAT THERE MAY BE A REAL CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF
THE U.S. WITH RESPECT TO ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS TO THE
SOUTH.

4. IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THERE IS A POLICY", EL ESPECTADOR
POINTS OUT THAT AS EVIDENCED BY ITS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS IT IS
"NOT FAIR OR REALISTIC TO CONTINUE TO SUSTAIN THAT THE U.S.G. IS
BENT ON ERASING LATIN AMERICA FROM THE MAP OF ITS WORLD CONCERN".
EL ESPECTADOR COMMENTS FAVORABLY ON THE SECRETARY'S "CONCRETE"
STATEMENTS, SPECIFICALLY THOSE IN REFERENCE TO THE TRADE ACT,
THE REFINANCING OF THE BID, CUBA, THE PANAMA CANAL, AND CONCLUDES
"THERE IS, THEN, A POLICY, AFTER A PERIOD IN WHICH IT COULD
TRUTHFULLY BE SAID THAT THE POLICY OF THE U.S., WITH REGARD TO LATIN
AMERICA CONSISTED IN NOT HAVING A POLICY.

5. POLITICAL COMMENTATOR JAIME SOTO, IN THE MARCH 6 AIRING
OF HIS TELEVISED PROGRAM " COUNTERPOINT", ENUMERATED THE POINTS MADE
BY THE SECRETARY AND PRONOUNCED THE SPEECH A GOOD ONE OVERALL. SOTO
REGRETTED THE SLIGHT COVERAGE BY THE NEWS MEDIA, POINTING OUT THAT
INTERNAL POLITICAL EVENTS WERE MONOPOLIZING ATTENTION.

6. COMMENT ON THE ADDRESS BY SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL
FIGURES HAS BEEN NEGLIGIBLE.
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